

Message on the Observance of Passover

April 15, 1992

Beginning on the evening of April 17, Jews around the Nation and throughout the world will observe Passover, the traditional celebration of the Israelites' Exodus from Egypt. In the Jewish calendar, this holiday is also known as the Feast of the Unleavened Bread and the Festival of Spring. During Passover, a people who have all too often known oppression and persecution will reaffirm their faith in the Divine Judge, who brought them out of Egypt and delivered them from slavery. Passover is, in the words of the kiddush which Jews recite as they drink each of the four cups of Passover wine, "a time of freedom." This Passover comes at an especially precious moment in Jewish history. Since Jewish families and friends last gathered around the seder table a year ago, we have all rejoiced at the modern exodus of Jews from Ethiopia and the former Soviet Union to Israel. We have also triumphed in the repeal of United Nations General Assembly Resolution 3379, that infamous declaration, which wrongly equated Zionism with racism. We cele-

brated together the defeat of Iraqi aggression, a modern day threat to Israel and the entire Middle East. Finally, we began a process that for the first time in history brought together Israel and all of her neighbors to make peace.

The most well known portion of the Passover Hagaddah is the "Ma Nish'tana"—the four questions asked by the youngest child in the family about why this night is different from all others. This year the answers are especially vivid. Today, more people live in freedom than ever before. In the last few years, we have witnessed the liberation of millions of people from the political and ideological oppression under which they lived. As we stand united today in freedom, we have an unprecedented opportunity to move forward toward our goal of a more humane and peaceful world.

Barbara and I extend our best wishes to members of the Jewish community for a joyous Passover.

GEORGE BUSH

Statement by Press Secretary Fitzwater on the President's Federal Income Tax Return

April 15, 1992

The President and Mrs. Bush paid \$204,841 in Federal income taxes in 1991.

They donated \$789,176 in income (minus taxes) from "Millie's Book" to the Barbara Bush Literary Foundation. The total royalty income (including taxes paid) was \$889,176, bringing their adjusted gross income to \$1,324,456.

In addition to the President's salary of \$200,000, the Bushes reported \$197,047 in income from their blind trust, \$1,151 in interest income, and \$1,359 from other sources. A net long-term capital gain of \$49,669 was reported from the blind trust, less a short-term capital loss carryover from the prior year of \$8,822. The blind trust

is managed by Bessemer Trust Co., N.A., New York City.

The President and Mrs. Bush made total charitable contributions in 1991 of \$818,803. Of this amount, \$818,126 was given by them individually to 48 charities and \$677 was given to charities through the blind trust. Because Federal tax law allows a deduction of up to 50 percent of adjusted gross income, their charitable deduction was limited to \$662,228. This produced a contribution carryover of \$156,575, which will be available for use in their 1992 tax return. A list of the 48 charities is included in the tax return.

The President's and Mrs. Bush's tax